

West 70th Street Corridor Study

Study Advisory Committee

Meeting #1 – April 12, 2007, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

Traffic Issues

- High speeds on West 70th Street with the perception that there is little to no police enforcement of the speed limit
- High traffic volumes on West 70th Street
- Aggressive driving behavior includes passing on shoulders or in turn lanes, honking, tailgating, failing to yield to pedestrians and running traffic signals
- Safety concern for pedestrians, bicyclists and school-aged children– unsafe and difficult to cross West 70th Street
- Difficult to enter West 70th Street from side streets and driveways
- Perceived high truck traffic volume and associated noise on West 70th Street
- With no access to the west and south, West 70th Street is the only access for residents south of the corridor
- Perception that much of the traffic on West 70th Street is “non-local”
- Need to define how much of the traffic using West 70th Street is local/residential traffic versus cut through/non-neighborhood traffic, and what is considered “local” (West Edina residents, West Edina workers that live in West Richfield etc.)
- Traffic noise and air pollution
- High speeds and cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets to the north and south are due to difficulty in accessing West 70th Street, congestion at France Avenue and the perception that neighborhood routes are faster
- Safety concerns with the northbound TH 100 off ramp, Normandale Road and Christ Presbyterian Church traffic operations
- Need to encourage motorists to use other routes, such as I-494, TH 62, France Avenue and West 76th/77th Street

Neighborhood Issues

- Residents do not trust City officials (City Council, Planning Commission, ETC, City staff)
- Residents believe there is a hidden agenda and predetermined plan for West 70th Street
- Residents are concerned that future redevelopment in the Southdale area will continue to increase traffic volumes on West 70th Street and affect its residential character
- Residents believe redevelopment (high rise buildings, hotels, condos) is a higher priority than the adverse traffic impacts on existing neighborhoods
- There is the tension between the need for east-west travel on West 70th Street as a through route versus its character as residential street
- Residents believe we need to eliminate the State Aid designation of West 70th Street in order to lower the speed limit, eliminate trucks and eliminate the possibility of a four-lane expansion
- There is a concern with the selection of SAC members – lack of residents on the committee
- Residents associate any expansion of West 70th Street is to support commercial growth
- Study narrowly focused and needs to be expanded
- Residents want active participation, not just input
- Residents are concerned with the decrease in home value due to traffic issues and the potential of West 70th being expanded